REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments.

Original Claims 1-46 were examined. Claims 1-3 stand rejected. Claims 24-46 have been allowed. Claims 4-24 have been objected to for depending from rejected claims, but are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 7 and 9, which originally depended directly from claim 1, both have been rewritten in independent form by expressly including the language of claim 1 therein. Claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 7. Claims 4, 5 and 6, which recite limitations now in claims 7 and 8, have been canceled to eliminate redundancies.

Inasmuch as only allowed and allowable claims remain, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

MAY 2 4 2004

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